

# CSCE NEWS RELEASE

## Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

234 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6460  
Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, Chairman  
Rep. Christopher Smith, Co-Chairman

Contact: Chadwick R. Gore  
1-202-225-1901  
e-mail: CGORE@HR.HOUSE.GOV

## The Czech Republic, Romania and Slovenia to Present Case for Inclusion in NATO

**For Immediate Release  
May 7, 1997**

**Contact: Chadwick R. Gore  
(202) 225-1901**

**Washington, DC**— Today the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, announced the second in a series of hearings focusing on the process of NATO enlargement and the role of OSCE commitments, including human rights, in evaluating prospective members for inclusion in the Alliance:

### **“Human Rights and the Process of NATO Enlargement”**

**Tuesday, May 13**

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**

**538 Dirksen Senate Office Building**

**Washington, DC**

**The Czech Republic, Romania and Slovenia** will each send an official representative to appear before the Commission to present testimony in support of their candidacy for NATO membership. As participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), each of the witnesses will be expected to address their country's record of implementation of OSCE commitments, including human rights.

This series of hearings is being undertaken in keeping with the Commission's legal mandate to monitor and encourage implementation of OSCE commitments, including provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, by the participating States.

continued on page 2 of 3

# CSCE NEWS RELEASE

page 2 of 2

Details with respect to subsequent hearings in this series will be announced as they become available.

## **NATO Enlargement: The OSCE and Human Rights Component**

The following references on human rights and OSCE commitments are taken from NATO documents and U.S. laws relating to NATO expansion:

### ***The North Atlantic Treaty of 1949:***

**“They [NATO Members] are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law....”**

### ***Partnership for Peace Framework Document of 1994:***

**“...Protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms and human rights, and safeguarding of freedom, justice, and peace through democracy are shared values fundamental to the Partnership...They reaffirm their commitment to fulfill in good faith the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights...They also reaffirm their commitment to the Helsinki Final Act and all subsequent CSCE documents....”**

### ***NATO Study on Enlargement of 1995:***

**“Prospective members will have to have demonstrated a commitment to and respect for OSCE norms and principles....”**

### ***NATO Participation Act of 1994 (PL 103-447):***

**“Participants in the Partnership for Peace should be invited to become full NATO members if they...remain committed to protecting the rights of all their citizens....”**

### ***Foreign Operations Appropriations for FY’96 (PL 104-107):***

**“To be eligible to receive assistance under the NATO Participation Act of 1994, each country must have made significant progress toward establishing...adherence to the rule of law and to the values, principles, and political commitments set forth in the Helsinki Final Act and other declarations by the members of the Organization on Secu-**

# CSCE NEWS RELEASE

page 3 of 3

rity and Cooperation in Europe....”

***NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996 (PL104-208):***

“Protection and promotion of human rights is an integral aspect of genuine security, and in evaluating requests for membership in NATO, the human rights records of the emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe should be evaluated according to their commitments to fulfill in good faith the human rights obligations of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the Helsinki Final Act.”